

Minutes Commission on Disability Concerns October 21, 2003

Minutes of the Commission on Disability Concerns held on October 21, 2003, 7:00 p.m., at the Pyle Adult Center, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Paul Bennewitz, Mike Franjevic, Kathleen Green, John Horne III, Rich Nolan, Nancy Puffer, Karen Walters

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Carl Hoxeng, Deiedre Leisure, Irene Mochel, Carol Payant, Jerry Pies, Barbara Jane Shelton

Staff Present:

Martha Cronin, Tempe Community Council

Guests Present:

Chris Wilson, Operations Manager, DTC

Meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.

Chair Rich Nolan called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Rich Nolan called for approval of the commission minutes dated September 16, 2003. Kathleen Green made a motion to approve the minutes and John Horne seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Speaker: Chris Wilson, Operations Manager with the DTC, to discuss disabled parking in the Tempe downtown area

Chris Wilson gave a brief overview of the functioning of the DTC. He explained that DTC is financed primarily by the downtown area businesses. DTC also administers the parking in the downtown, and while the City receives the net revenue, the DTC gets reimbursed the costs for the parking administration.

- 1) He explained that there is a perception in the community that parking is unavailable or difficult in the downtown area; therefore, additional visible parking was added along Mill Ave. This additional parking also serves to have a traffic calming effect and accommodates bicycles. DTC also responded to the public's dislike of the multi-space meter boxes and replaced them with single-space meters.
- 2) Chris Wilson explained that with the additional parking along Mill Ave., six new disabled parking spaces were added, and all disabled parking spaces are free at all times. Rich Nolan explained that the free parking came about as a compromise; since the parking meters are not accessible, those with a placard or license plate indicating a disability are able to park free of charge.
- 3) Discussion continued regarding the effect of special events on the disabled community. Chris explained that the disabled parking spaces change from one event to the next, and Commissioners expressed concern regarding the lack of consistency. Chris stated that a shuttle bus is available from the far lot but the ground is not paved and is very difficult to navigate. Commissioners also expressed concern regarding the lack of signage to indicate where the disabled parking is located.
- 4) Commissioners suggested that there be designated spaces for special events on both the east and the west sides of downtown that are well publicized, in addition to having way-finding signage.
- 5) Chris Wilson stated that there is a parking hotline (480-894-1800) that is answered 24 hours per day. Kathleen Green stated that the number needs to be well publicized. Rich Nolan suggested a series of signs, with the phone number on them. Chris stated that that idea is in process; the number is being displayed on parking meters, on trucks and on signs.

- 6) The challenges of parking during the MAMA festival were also discussed. Chris explained that the upcoming event should be more accessible for both the patrons and the businesses during the evening. Chris encouraged the Commissioners to call DTC at 480-921-2300 with parking concerns or to attend the Special Events Task Force Committee meeting with issues, suggestions of concerns.

Review City of Phoenix proposed ordinance requiring at least one accessible entrance in all new home construction

Commissioners felt they needed additional time to review the proposal, so this issue was tabled until the November meeting.

Continue discussion on priority topics and process recommendations for the Task Force on Disability Issues.

Martha Cronin explained in greater detail the expectation with regard to Commission input for the upcoming Disability Task Force. She explained that this task force will be the first conducted by Tempe Community Council (TCC) that has the benefit of working with an existing Commission. Therefore, to expedite the process, TCC is requesting that the Commission determine the priority topic areas to be considered in greater detail by the Task Force members and provide resources, such as, newsletters, persons or organizations that will be called on to present to the Task Force. Martha stated that she has received email input from Mike Franjevic, and she would like others to email her with any input and ideas as well.

Post-event review of the Oktoberfest Wheelchair Challenge

Kathleen Green reported that the Wheelchair Challenge event went off as planned. The event brought in \$266 for Sister Cities Wheelchairs for Peace program. Although there weren't as many participants as had been hoped, all who did participate gained a great deal from the experience. Other than issues with the water cooler, logistically, the event went according to plan.

Presentation of Wheelchair Challenge "thank you's"

Rich Nolan presented certificates of appreciation to the Commissioners who helped with the planning and implementation of the Wheelchair Challenge event.

Determine topics for the November 18, 2003 meeting

Mike Franjevic requested that the commission hear from someone who could speak on the status of curb-cuts and sidewalk maintenance. It was also suggested that the Commission get an update on the results of the East Valley Needs Assessment, and Mike asked to be placed back on the agenda as a recurring item to discuss light rail issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Martha Cronin

Reviewed by:

Chair, Commission on Disability Concerns